



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

October 16, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

I deeply regret not having the opportunity to have a substantive meeting with you during the Summit of La Francophonie last month.

For the past decade and a half, Canada and Bulgaria have developed an important, dynamic relationship. Through NATO we are working more closely on issues of peace and security. Canada is also following closely the European Union accession process your country is now undergoing and we welcome the positive news that you will join on January 1, 2007.

If we had been able to meet in Bucharest, I would have wished to raise with you the imprisonment in your country of a Canadian citizen, Mr. Michael Kapoustin. I understand that Mr. Kapoustin was extradited from Germany to Bulgaria in 1996 where he has since been imprisoned. Since that time, Canada has remained seized of Mr. Kapoustin's case. I recently appointed Mr. Jason Kenney, my Parliamentary Secretary, to act as my Special Envoy. He travelled to Sofia last month for discussions with Bulgarian officials on this case. Mr. Kenney received a warm welcome in your country and had fruitful discussions, for which I am deeply appreciative.

In the spirit of our positive and growing relationship, I would ask for your continued cooperation and for a reconsideration by your government on its position regarding the transfer of Mr. Kapoustin to Canada.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Harper", written in a cursive style.

His Excellency Mr. Guéorgui Parvanov
President of the Republic of Bulgaria
Sofia, Bulgaria